

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



Volume III., Issue 2

February, 1995

**Next Meeting;
Feb. 22, 7: p.m.
Jeanne and Hilbert Bartels'
Home**

The Bartels' address is 202-5th Ave. W., Kirkland. Their historic home was constructed in 1889 and is known as the Tompkins House. While their house was originally built by Peter Kirk's Kirkland Land and Improvement Company, Harry Tompkins bought it in 1904. Tompkins was a partner in the small Bartsch and Tompkins Transportation Company and the tiny boatyard in Houghton that later became the Lake Washington Shipyards. The Bartels' house has had quite an interesting history and this meeting should be quite a treat.



As far as future meetings:
**March 29, to be at the Kirkland
Congregational Church at 7 p.m.** with
a program to be announced.
April 26, location and program to be
announced
May 31, 7 p.m. we'll visit the new
Fire History Museum at Fire Station #26
on 124th N.E.

From the Editor

Since we have so many new members, I thought it would be a good

time to remind everyone that your contributions to this newsletter are encouraged! I maintain an open editorial policy in that I will only alter submissions for space and/or clarity. If you want to submit, just get your article to me by the first Wednesday of the month to make the deadline for that month's newsletter. Submissions received later will run in the following month's newsletter, so make sure any time sensitive material gets in promptly.

Since I commute to Tacoma every day I am very hard to reach by phone (823-6838) and it usually takes me some time to return messages, so just mail your submission to me:

**Matt McCauley
10635 NE 120th
Kirkland, WA
98034**

or on-line: McCaule@su.edu

Remember, articles submitted by members will carry that person's name and any opinion(s) contained therein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of KHS. Obviously, too, I will not run material which calls into question the personal reputation of any individual, living or dead, unless such discussion is based upon documented public record. Old rumors and gossip are best left alone if anyone's name is used.

Other than that it's really up to you. Some examples might include: personal recollections of Kirkland's past by some of our senior members (and, by the way, we have some really interesting ones), or maybe if you live in an old house and have researched its history, you could share your discoveries with us. As you can see, there are numerous possibilities for article topics.

Tales from the East Side Journal
Alan Stein

Now that almost 50 years of the East Side Journal have been indexed at the Kirkland Library, I am introducing a new column to *Blackberry Preserves* readers. There are so many fascinating articles from the Journal, that I will attempt to find the most interesting ones, and transcribe them for you verbatim. This month's article comes from the December 2, 1926 edition of the Journal, and provides a marvelously detailed (albeit grammatically horrid) description of the then-recent remodeling of the Gateway Theatre.

**NEW GATEWAY THEATRE
PLEASES; CROWDS
GROWING LARGER DAILY**

*Beauty Of New Structure Draws
Exclamations Of Wonder From Fans*

Last Tuesday a vision that has been in the minds of many an East Sider for years past became a reality, for on that memorable night the New Gateway Theatre opened its doors for the first time. That opening proved beyond question for the first nighters that the new theatre was all that was claimed for it, and that it was the personification of all that was best in modern theatres.

Once on the inside a person had to fairly pinch ones self to realize that he was actually in Kirkland and not in one of the finest playhouses of Seattle. Mr. Pauly and his corps of artists and decorators have left nothing undone to make every detail most pleasing to the eye.

It is beautiful because textures, walls, vari-colored ceilings, silken drapes of bright hues, inch thick carpets, softly

glowing floor lamps and beautiful hand painted mural scenes on the auditoriums make it beautiful.

Big Signs Attractive

Realizing that to attract the passerby the showhouse must be well lighted Mr. Pauly, as one of his first acts, installed a beautiful electric colored flashing sign which hangs majestically over the metal awning, which in itself is most pleasing to the eye. Even as one steps in to the outerlobby with its attractive box office, equipped with its automatic ticket machine, one is impressed with the completeness with which the details have been worked out.

Inner Lobby And Foyer Pleasing

The first of a series of thrills comes as one steps through the large French Doors into the inner lobby. Here is obtained the first real idea of the decorative scheme. The walls with their special mottled plaster effect are made to blend with the specially made light fixtures, drapes and beautifully thick carpet, and then as one rounds into the main foyer the picture is complete. This long artistically decorated and richly furnished foyer is one of the main features of the new structure. Here as in the outer lobby the drapes with their daring dash of orange and the carpets with their soothing color combination harmonize with the light fixtures and furnishings. One has but to see it to realize that its planning has been the work of an artist. An atmosphere of luxury permeates the entire interior, but especially the foyer with its tapestry decorated walls, artistic furniture and softly glowing floor lamps. At the head of a richly carpeted stairway one finds a glassed in room overlooking the main auditorium where mothers with babes

who are restless may go and enjoy the picture and yet not disturb anyone in the audience. Already this is proving to be a very much appreciated feature of the new theatre.

Comfort Not Sacrificed

While beauty predominates on every hand nothing has been left undone for the comfort of the patrons. The aisles have been heavily carpeted so that those coming in will not disturb those already seated. The seats have been so arranged so that the passing of patrons in front of each other can be accomplished with the least possible inconvenience. The seats with a combination of springs and padding are very comfortable and the lodges, specially made by Geo. Burt local upholsterer, will certainly catch the eye of the young people for they are built just the size for two and how comfortable they are.

No expense has been spared by the theatre company which installed the heating and ventilation system to make it as effective as modern machinery can make it, huge fans throw a continuous stream of fresh air into the room, but in such a way that it creates not the slightest draft. An automatic thermostatically controlled furnace keeps the heat at just the right temperature at all times.

The auditorium with its five hundred seats, is lighted by a myriad of multicolored lights, concealed in opening between the main wall and the ceiling and by the turn of a single switch the operator from his steel sheathed room can change the whole light-effect of the theatre. Huge dimmers so control the light so that at all times it is just at the right degree needed for the picture and gradually coming into a full glow that

lights the whole house as the show closes.

Modern Kimball Pipe Organ Is Installed

Just in front of the stage stands the control for one of sciences most modern inventions. It is a multiple instrument Kimball Pipe organ, something that has never before been in the East side of the lake, The greatest part of this marvelous contrivance of human ingenuity, is behind the scenes. It is more than an organ. It is a large orchestra responding electrically to the touch of the organist. Up in the organ loft above the stage are cymbals, xylophones, whistles, castanets, bells and pipes, reproducing the music of practically every known instrument. All these instruments are electronically controlled. Leading to them are hundreds of fine wires, which for weeks experts have been connecting to their proper posts.

At the opposite end of the auditorium is the operating room. Sheathed in metal it is fireproof to the last degree. Not only does it contain two complete projecting machines of the latest type, but there is a third machine, an effect machine; with it the operator can secure almost any effect that a particular type of picture might call for.

From this room the big curtain as well as the back stage drapes are electrically controlled. From this room with the aid of numerous light switches and with the aid of the organist the operator can practically and artistically interpret the pictures shown on the screen

In fact words cannot describe all of the hundreds of details that have been so skillfully worked out to make a reality

of the playhouse that the East Side has so long dreamed of.

On a Personal Note
Barbara Loomis

A fond farewell to Jim and Carolyn Hitter, former Kirkland Historic Commission (now KHS) members who owned the *Hitter Home*; an 1889 brick Victorian built by the Kirkland Land and Improvement Company.



The Hitters left February 4, 1995 for another stint with the Peace Corp, this time to Kazakhstan (South of Russia, West of China, bordering the Caspian Sea.) Carolyn will be the "Associate Peace Corp Director for Education" in charge of training, volunteer support and administrative tasks for the 60 education volunteers. Jim says, he'll be in the enviable position of "dependent spouse" but expects to find employment with one of the many U.S. companies there.

"Our 25 years in this historic home have been wonderful. The community and friends have been exceptional. We fully expect to return to Kirkland at the end of our foreign adventure. Although we don't expect to

take on the responsibility of historic home ownership again." Jim Hitter.

I would also like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to Jim and Carolyn for donating newspaper articles, brochures, and ephemera about Kirkland's history that they had collected since the early 70's to the KHS. We now have a copy of that infamous placemat with the historic sites map as well as a complete abstract on their property which dates back to 1883. Jim who was involved in the saving and restoration of the historic Peter Kirk building, left some information on that project too.

A heartfelt thank you, Jim and Carolyn, for being such good stewards of one of Kirkland's historic homes for 25 years, for the collection, and for your work in the Peace Corp. You are wonderful people who truly make a difference in this world by unselfishly giving back to society. We wish you well and look forward to seeing you when you return to Kirkland.

P.S. We welcome the new owners of the *Hitter House*; Scott and Shelly Douglas to Kirkland.

Kudos for KHS
Volunteer Efforts
Barbara Loomis

Kudos for **Bob Burke** and **Alan Stein**. In the *Community History Newsletter* published by the King County Historic Preservation Program, there was an article on Publications and Documents. This article noted the document *Historic Preservation: City of Kirkland* by **Bob Burke** and stated: "Overall the document is a valuable guide to historic properties in the City and one of the most extensive studies of its type

ever conducted by an historical society in King County." The article then went on about the work **Alan Stein** has done to develop a Computerized Index to the *Eastside Journal*. It said, "To date the project has involved several years volunteer labor -- a remarkable public service."

Membership

Thank you to those members who have renewed in January:

- Charlotte DeVore
- Pat Stupfel
- Chet & Susie Creger

A warm welcome to our new members:

- Michelle Muse
- Terry Ellis
- Larry Springer & Penny Sweet
- Joan Voves
- Don Winters
- Nancy Roach & Greg Crafts
- Cathy J. Smith

and George & Joanne Harris, owners of the historic Kellet/Harris House and Sustaining/Supporting members.

Brief Summary of Board Retreat

Bob Burke and Barbara Loomis

The Board and interested members met on January 15, 1995 for a Retreat at Bob Burke's house.

Discussion included a synopsis of the accomplishments of '93 and '94 and how we will expand in '95.

We will continue public education and information through *Blackberry Preserves*, monthly meetings, and other events. We are becoming an increasingly important resource to the citizens and the

City with our growing collection of photographs, oral history interviews, newspaper database and inventory of historic sites.

There was a suggestion that committees would be jointly chaired, and the responsibility of each committee was defined. We have a new Program Committee that will be chaired by **Jeanne Bartels and Hazel Kelly**.

We need a chair to organize and continue the fine work that **Lorraine McConaghy** has done with the Oral History Program. Lorraine has resigned from the Board to pursue her career.

We have projects that are done once a year or are a one-time activity. **Jeanne Bartels, Loita Hawkinson, and Barbara Loomis** will look into the feasibility of doing an historic home tour. We need help in organizing the Summer Arts Festival Booth in July and we need someone to coordinate a Recognition/Awards Banquet.

We discussed the revision of bylaws, official address, election of officers and committee structure.

If you would like a more complete summary of the retreat call Bob Burke at 828-4095.

Growth Management Update

Bob Burke

At the meeting of the Kirkland Growth Management Commission on February 2, 1995, goals and policies on Historic Preservation were included in the Community Character element of the Comprehensive Plan. These encompass a majority of the recommendations included in the KHS report on Historic Preservation in Kirkland. There are still a few items which will be addressed at

the public hearing before the Commission on March 2, 1995 at 7:p.m. at the Senior Center Auditorium:

- Strengthen references to Historic Preservation in the Plan's Vision Statement;
- Add a Framework Goal on Historic Preservation; and
- Include more language in the Land Use Element regarding historic preservation, hotel uses in downtown and bed and breakfasts in historic buildings and neighborhoods.

If you would like more information on the plan and the public hearing call Bob Burke, 828-4095.

Up Coming Events:

Regional Training Workshops The King County Historic Preservation Program and the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission, in cooperation with the Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), are planning a series of three Regional Training Workshops for staff and boards or commission members of Certified Local Government agencies and other interested parties from around the state who are working with historic preservation and landmark issues. The proposed workshops will include those on: Design Review March 17 and 18, 1995 at Camp Waskowitz; Survey and Inventory (May, dates and site to be determined); and Landmark Nominations (August, dates and site to be determined.) For more information and a registration packet call 296-7580.

House History Workshop. Seattle Public Library will sponsor a House History Workshop on Saturday, April 29, 1995, from 1-4 PM, in the auditorium of the downtown Seattle Public Library, 1000 4th Ave. Space is limited, to register call 386-4636 or 386-4613.

How Buildings Learn Historic Seattle's Annual Spring Lecture Series & Tour will begin the first Monday in May. Subject of this years series -- How Buildings Learn, by Stewart Brand. The series will be held on four consecutive Mondays at the Museum of History & Industry from 7-9 PM and will also include a Saturday tour of remodeled residences and buildings. For registration information call 622-6952.



Imagine the convenience! Just think, carburetor rebuilding and brake drum turning all performed at the same business...boy!

This was an actual 1950s post card recently unearthed by a KHS member.



ONE STOP SERVICE

Everything your car requires
under one roof.

SAVE TIME AND MONEY!

*All work done by competent,
completely equipped craftsmen.*

- WHEEL ALIGNING AND BALANCING
- MOTOR TUNE-UP
- MOTOR RECONDITIONING

- BRAKE SERVICE
- RELINING
- ADJUSTING
- DRUM TURNING
- CARBURETOR AND ELECTRICAL WORK
- PAINT, BODY AND FENDER REPAIRS

Check off the items in which you are interested and bring this card with you.



HALLS MOTOR CO., INC.

Cor. Kirkland Avenue & State Street

VA 1211

KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON



Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 10635 NE 120th, Kirkland, WA 98034, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information call: 823-6838 or 827-7194.

**Kirkland Heritage Society
10635 NE 120th
Kirkland, WA 98034**